

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 have been examined. With this amendment, Applicant adds claims 9-20.
Claims 1-20 are all the claims pending in the application.

1. Formalities

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging the claim for foreign priority and for confirming receipt of the priority document.

Applicant also thanks the Examiner for indicating that the drawings filed on September 30, 2003, have been approved.

Finally, Applicant thanks the Examiner for initialing and returning a copy of the form PTO-1449 submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement filed on September 30, 2003.

2. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3, 5 and 7 under 102(a) and/or 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by Yasuda (US 2002/0003218) and/or Yasuda (US 6,653,652) [“Yasuda”]. For at least the following reasons, Applicant traverses the rejection.

Claim 1 recites a radiation image read-out method that comprises “previously storing reference signal components having been obtained in an initial state ... produced by a reference light source, ... acquiring sensitivity signal components ... produced by the reference light source ... [and] comparing the sensitivity signal components and the corresponding reference signal components with each other.” (emphasis added). The Examiner contends that claims 1-14 of Yasuda disclose the claimed features. The Examiner does not provide any analysis.

Yasuda discloses a system where uniform light is projected onto photoelectric conversion devices (see at least col. 13, lines 10-20). The output of one of the photoelectric conversion devices is then used as a reference to calculate corrections values (col. 14, lines 7-15). These correction values are then used to correct the signals obtained from scanning a stimuable phosphor sheet to obtain corrected signal components (col. 15, lines 25-57).

Applicant submits that, although Yasuda may disclose the obtaining signal components using a reference light, there is no discourse or suggestion in Yasuda that reference signals components are previously stored as set forth in claim 1. Since the initially stored reference signal components do not exist, the system in Yasuda does not perform “comparing the sensitivity signal components and the corresponding reference signal components with each other,” as set forth in claim 1.

Because independent claim 5 recites features similar to those given above with respect to claim 1, Applicant submits that claim 5 is patentable for at least reasons similar to those given above with respect to claim 1.

Applicant submits that claims 3 and 7 are patentable at least by virtue of their respective dependencies.

3. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 2, 4, 6 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yasuda in view of Shimura (US 5,301,107) [“Shimura”]. For at least the following reason, Applicant traverses the rejection.

Because Shimura does not cure the deficient teachings of Yasuda given above with respect to claims 1 and 5, Applicant submits that claims 2, 4, 6 and 8 are patentable at least by virtue of their respective dependencies.

4. New Claims

With this amendment, Applicant adds claims 9-20. Applicant submits that claim 19 is patentable for at least reasons similar to those given above with respect to claim 1. Applicant submits that claims 9-18 and 20 are patentable at least by virtue of their respective dependencies, as well as the features set forth therein.

5. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Serial No. 10/673,400

Attorney Docket No.: Q77719

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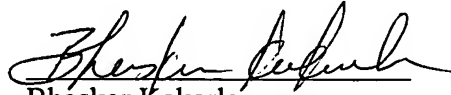
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